Subject: LAUSD Board Meeting Recap: Approval of Student-Centered Policy Updates for Charter Schools
From: laadvocacy@ccsa.org <laadvocacy@ccsa.org>
Date: 11/8/17, 2:38 PM
To: phudnut@icefps.org

ccsa

Member Alert: LAUSD Board Meeting Recap
1108/2017

LA Charter Leaders, Staff and Supporters,

This email is to update you on important decisions and outcomes from yesterday's LAUSD charter-only Board meeting. The LAUSD Board approved twenty-six (26) charter renewals, four (4) new charter petitions, and one charter material revision. With these petitions, the Board approved significant, student-centered policy updates for charter schools. Thanks to the collective advocacy of the Los Angeles charter community, led by the Los Angeles Advocacy Council (LAAC), yesterday's meeting represents a significant policy win for charters in the form of student-centered improvements to LAUSD's District Required Language (DRL). Read on for other critical details from this meeting as well as additional updates regarding the impact of AB1360, upcoming UTLA rallies, and the Los Angeles Advocacy Council (LAAC), including opportunities to get involved.

Board Meeting Updates

Board Approves Updates to District Required Language

Yesterday's LAUSD Board meeting began with LAUSD Acting Superintendent Vivian Ekchian's announcement that charter leaders and district staff had reached an agreement to update key parts of the boilerplate language that LAUSD mandates its schools include in their charter petitions, called the "District Required Language" (DRL). This agreement was the outcome of years of joint efforts between the charter community and CCSA to analyze the policy requirements in the DRL, assess their impact on charter operators' ability to serve students, and prioritize areas for pushback.

Ultimately, the District agreed to these changes because of the joint advocacy efforts of the Los Angeles Advocacy Council (LAAC), the broader charter community, CCSA, and six charter organizations who took on the risk of potential charter denial by submitting new and renewing charter petitions with updated policy language included. These organizations were **STEM Preparatory Schools**, **Equitas Charter Academies**, **Alliance College-Ready Public Schools**, **KIPP Los Angeles**, **Camino Nuevo Charter Academies**, and **Magnolia Public Schools**. We thank them for their leadership role in this effort. After months of negotiations,

schools who pushed back on district policy were approved with new DRL terms that will extend to the broader community as well. These positive policy updates include Special Education flexibility, increased transparency on district policies that apply to charters, decreased barriers to stable and long-term facilities agreements, and important changes to dispute resolution, closure and insurance policies and processes.

These changes are significant wins for students and educators, and represent what can be accomplished when our charter community is unified in bold action and voice. Thank you to all who participated in this collective action by making phone calls, signing a collective letter, and otherwise advocating for these student-centered policy improvements.

Extensive media coverage for this momentous board action highlights our efforts to put student interests first, and includes: KPCC, EdSource, Speak UP, LA School Report, LA Times, Daily News Op Ed, ABC 7, and FOX LA.

Board Approves 26 Renewal Petitions and 4 New Charter Petitions

Yesterday the LAUSD Board voted to approve the renewal petitions for twenty-six (26) independent charter schools as well as four (4) new charter petitions and one material revision. All of these votes were unanimous (7-0), with the exception of Board Member Gonez recusing herself from one vote due to conflict of interest. Nineteen (19) of these votes took place on the consent agenda. Twelve (12) items were pulled for further discussion before a vote took place. On all of these items, the Board's discussion focused on academic performance, particularly English Learner performance and reclassification rates. While we are appreciative of these substantive discussions and share the Board's commitment to academic accountability for all schools, we have concerns with the inconsistency of District staff's analysis of academic performance and assignment of academic benchmarks. We will be working with L.A. Unified staff and Board Members to address these concerns as we continue to fight for more consistent, student-focused, reasonable oversight. Overall, it was encouraging to see the entire board come together and vote unanimously on charter items, demonstrating a unified front in prioritizing substance over adult politics.

Thank you to the parents, teachers, students, staff and board members who showed up early in the day to advocate on behalf of these petitions. Media coverage such as this piece by LA School Report illustrates the commitment and energy of charter parents and supporters, and our community's ongoing devotion to high-quality public school options for the students of Los Angeles.

Renewal Petitions

- Alliance Alice M. Baxter College-Ready High
- Alliance College-Ready Middle Academy 12
- Alliance College-Ready Middle Academy 8
- Alliance Kory Hunter Middle
- Alliance Leadership Middle Academy
- Alliance Leichtman-Levine Family Foundation Environmental Science High*

- Alliance Morgan McKinzie High
- Alliance Piera Barbalia Shaheen Health Services Academy
- Aspire Centennial College Preparatory Academy*
- Aspire Junior Collegiate Academy*
- Aspire Titan Academy*
- Camino Nuevo Charter High 2*
- City Language Immersion Charter
- Gabriella Charter*
- Ingenium Charter Middle School
- KIPP Academy of Innovation*
- KIPP Academy of Opportunity
- KIPP Iluminar Academy*
- KIPP Los Angeles Prep*
- KIPP Raíces*
- KIPP Vida Prep Academy
- Magnolia Science Academy 4
- New Horizons Charter Academy*
- New Millennium Secondary*
- Para Los Ninos Middle School*
- Renaissance Arts Academy*

New Petitions

- Equitas Academy 5*
- KIPP K-8*
- PRIME School*
- STEM Prep Elementary* *(Board Member Gonez recused herself)*

Material Revision

- USC East College Prep* *(to add additional site)*

*****Vote took place on consent agenda

Board Denies 2 Renewals and 1 New Petition

Also at yesterday's meeting, the LAUSD Board voted unanimously to deny renewal petitions for **North Valley Military Academy** and **Magnolia Science Academy 5**. While we again share the Board's commitment to academic accountability, we disagree with District staff's conclusion that these schools fall short of state requirements for renewal. We will continue to support these schools' respective appeals to the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Finally, a new petition from **International Studies Language Academy** was denied unanimously on the consent agenda over staff concerns that we consider unfounded. We will continue to support this appeal, as well.

Public Hearing Held for 10 Charter School Renewals and 5 New Charter Petitions

The Board welcomed speakers for the below ten (10) independent charter schools that have submitted renewal petitions, and the below five (5) independent charter

school developers that have submitted new petitions. These petitions will be voted on at the December 5 charter-only Board meeting. Thank you to the students, parents and staff who spoke to the Board about their schools and invited Board Members to visit and learn more about their programs and communities prior to next month's votes.

Renewal Petitions

- Executive Preparatory Academy of Finance
- Extera Public School No. 2
- High Tech LA
- Lou Dantzler Preparatory Academy
- View Park Preparatory Accelerated High
- Metro Charter
- Prepa Tec
- Stella Middle Charter Academy
- Valor Academy High
- Crenshaw Arts-Technology Charter High

New Charter Petitions

- Acumen Academy
- iLEAD Encino Charter School
- Learning By Design
- Rise Kohyang Elementary School
- Valley International Preparatory High School

The entire November 7 Board meeting agenda, materials, and video stream are available here*. The next LAUSD Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14. The next charter-only Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5.*

Other Updates for CCSA Members

AB1360: Potential Impact on Admissions Preferences
Last month, Governor Brown signed AB 1360, which ensures that California charter schools are accessible to all students, strengthens due process rights for students facing dismissal, and solidifies the authority for charter schools to offer admissions preferences that are otherwise consistent with law. The changes will take effect on January 1, 2018. Several charter organizations have formed a working group to explore the impact of this legislation on charter admissions in LA. Please contact Keith Dell'Aquila if you are interested in joining this working group.

UTLA Publicizes Regional Rallies on Thursday, November 16
We continue to track and monitor UTLA's ongoing contract and benefit negotiations with LAUSD and potential implications for the Los Angeles charter community in order to support your schools, students, and families.

UTLA is publicizing its next job action as it ramps up towards a potential strike in

early 2018:

- **November 16: Regional Rallies**
  - Six rallies will take place at sites throughout the district, starting at 4pm.
  - Please be on the lookout for updated resources to help message this event to your school communities.

We are seeking additional participants in an ad-hoc committee formed to ensure that LA charter schools are well-prepared for the potential of a UTLA strike so as to minimize the potential negative impact on student learning. This subcommittee is also considering strategic communications to navigate the pre-strike landscape, including potential responses to UTLA bargaining proposals that may directly affect charter students, families, and educators. If you are interested in joining, and/or have any questions or concerns related to UTLA strike preparedness, please contact Jennie Shin.

Los Angeles Advocacy Council (LAAC)

The LAAC, established in 2016, is a 17-member steering committee of charter leaders that is responsible for defining the scope of CCSA's advocacy priorities in Los Angeles. LAAC members are executive directors, chief executive officers, founders, and heads of school from charter schools of various types, sizes and neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

At last month's Regional Meeting, Emilio Pack and Cristina De Jesus, Chair and Vice-Chair of the LAAC, introduced to the broader Los Angeles charter community a set of policy priorities that the LAAC has prioritized as focus areas for this school year:

1. Student-centered LAUSD charter school oversight
2. Student-centered improvements to the LAUSD District Required Language (DRL)
3. Stable and high-quality Facilities Use Agreements that create win-wins for all students

These policy priorities were thoughtfully selected from a list of common concerns from Los Angeles charter leaders, and are believed to represent issues that significantly affect a large majority of schools, and that we can reasonably expect to move the needle on this school year as a result of unified and bold collective action and advocacy.

The LAAC is incredibly proud of this week's accomplishment regarding DRL improvements, and grateful for the support and collective advocacy from so many members of the LA charter community. That said, there is more work to be done and several opportunities for charter leaders to get involved.

The LAAC works closely with policy subcommittees that are comprised of LAAC members as well as other school leaders from the Los Angeles charter community. These subcommittees also serve as an opportunity for engagement for leaders interested in future participation as LAAC members, when current members reach

the end of their terms. For the 2017-18 school year, we are seeking participation from charter school leaders in the following subcommittees, which will partner with the LAAC to fulfill its mission:

- **Authorization / Oversight**: Achieve student-centered oversight at LAUSD and improvements to District Required Language (DRL).
- **Relationships**: Build strong relationships with LAUSD staff, Superintendent, and Board Members.
- **Facilities**: Establish stable and quality facilities use agreements that create win-wins for all students and improve Proposition 39 arrangements.
- **Ad-Hoc Subcommittee for UTLA Strike Preparedness**: Ensure that LA charter schools are well-prepared for the potential of a UTLA strike so as to minimize the potential negative impact on student learning.

Each subcommittee will meet monthly for approximately one hour, with additional engagement opportunities requiring a four-hour commitment per month. To indicate your interest in joining one or more of the above subcommittees, please email Jennie Shin.

As always, if you have any thoughts, questions or concerns, please let us know.

Onward!

Cassy Horton
Managing Director, Regional Advocacy, Greater Los Angeles

Keith Dell'Aquila
Director, Regional Advocacy, Greater Los Angeles
Geography: LAUSD Board District 4 (West LA), LA County Office of Education
Focus: Oversight, Legislative Advocacy, New School Development

Jennie Bartkowiak-Shin
Director, Regional Advocacy, Greater Los Angeles
Geography: LAUSD Board District 3 and 6 (San Fernando Valley)
Focus: District Required Language, Labor Negotiations, Fiscal Advocacy, Charter Renewal, LA Advocacy Council

Jason Rudolph
Director, Regional Advocacy, Greater Los Angeles
Geographic: LAUSD Board Districts 1 and 7 (South and Central Los Angeles)
Focus: Facilities, Discipline and Safety, CMO/Governance

Chris Copolillo
Director, Regional Advocacy, Greater Los Angeles
Geographic: LAUSD Board Districts 2 and 5 (East and Central Los Angeles)
Focus: LAUSD Board Policy, Common Enrollment, Special Education, Civic Engagement

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